

6 August 1952

ITEM 5Progress Reports:

- a. Progress Report to the PSB on Psychological Operations Plan for Soviet Orbit Escapees, Phase A. (PSB D-18a/2)

Summary: This status report was prepared by the PSB staff from information supplied by State, Defense, MSA, and CIA.

Two sections of this report are of particular interest to CIA:

1. Reception and Interim Care - This phase of the program involves CIA interest in refugees as sources of intelligence, recruits, and propaganda material. This phase is also one to which special attention must be ~~taken~~ ^{GIVEN} to prevent adverse publicity. The progress report states that "In every country of operation, the immediate needs of the escapees are being met." However, in view of the absence of more specific information on the magnitude and "field action" status of this phase of the program, the above statement is believed to be somewhat over-optimistic. The staff suggests ~~would~~ it ^{be} more realistic to view the field action in this phase as being on a case-to-case basis, albeit commendable, during the present period of organization and staffing activity.

2. Propaganda Utilization - The progress report states that "For the present, no general propaganda utilization of the plans and activities of the escapee program is contemplated by the State Department." In the opinion of your staff, this attitude overlooks much valuable and timely material that could be used to counteract Soviet propaganda which seeks to discourage defection and disaffection. Both overt and covert media should be encouraged to give publicity to this program while avoiding any action that might result in defections of undesirable satellite nationals, en masse, or that might present this program as something other than a supplemental assistance activity.

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S E C R E T
Security Information

NOTE: Comments in 1. and 2. above are also applicable to that portion of the PSB Annual Report to NSC (Agenda Item No. 4) which describes the status of this plan. (PSB D-30, Annex E, pages 3 and 4).

Recommendation:

1. That before you approve Recommendation 1 (to approve this report), you may wish to inquire whether the report is unduly optimistic in describing the status and magnitude of the reception and interim care phase.
2. That you approve Recommendation 2 of the report.